

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 9 and 10 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are pending in the present application.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-7, 9-10 and 12. In response, Applicants have amended claims 6, 9 and 10 to be in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, indication of allowance of claims 6-7, 9-10 and 12 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-5, 8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0201941 to Aikawa et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record is a resonator that includes “a conductor layer located on the substrate, the conductor layer having first and second conductor openings directly connected to each other at respective ends of a first slit, and third and fourth conductor openings directly connected to each other at respective ends of a second slit, and the first slit and the second slit intersecting each other.”

In contrast, the array antenna of Aikawa et al. has first and second slot lines that intersect each other, and four slot line antenna elements formed in the regions defined by the first and second slot lines. These slot line antenna elements are not directly connected to the ends of the first and second slot lines. Therefore, Aikawa et al. does not teach or suggest “first and second conductor openings directly connected to each other at respective ends of a first slit, and third and fourth conductor openings directly connected to each other at respective ends of a second slit” as required by independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the art of record.

Claims 2-5, 8 and 11 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and include all of the limitations found therein. Each of these dependent claims includes additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of the claims from which they depend, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 8 and 11 are likewise patentable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendments to claims 1, 6, 9 and 10, and allowance of the present application with claims 1-12 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Richard LaCava/
Richard LaCava

Registration No.: 41,135
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 277-6500
Attorney for Applicant